

Date: 1/25/54

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~~SECRET~~

COUNTRY Lebanon

DATE: 25X1X6

SUBJECT Communist Activities

INFO.

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SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

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- 25X1X6 1. The Central Committee of the Lebanese Communist Party has stated that its total election expenses for the coming campaign will amount to a total of 25,000 LS, budgeted as follows:
- (a) Propaganda, printing, speeches, meetings..... 5,000 LS
(b) Transportation10,000 LS
(c) Tips.....10,000 LS
- 25X1X6 2. The Communist Party will spend from eight to nine thousand Syrian pounds; the Soviet Legation will provide the balance.
- 25X1X6 Comment: Although the amount to be spent by the Communist Party apparently is low, it is stated that the Communists are not running entire lists, but are merely backing one or two candidates on a list; in addition, the party itself could not easily raise more than ten thousand pounds from its own membership.
- 25X1X6 3. It is reported that there were two meetings in Beirut, one on 1 February at the house of Niqola Shawi, the other on 3 February in the house of Sa'id Kazan, a mukhtar of the Mizra'ah quarter. The meetings were attended by the following Beirut mukhtars, all of whom are Communists: 'Abd-al-Salam Aris of the Bashurah quarter, Jurji Mitri Jinnu of the Musaitbah quarter, Michel Sfeir of the Mina' Husn quarter and 'Abd-al-Rahman Fakhuri of the Dar Mureisah quarter.
- 25X1X6 4. At these meetings, the Shi'a Communist Hashim Amin, Niqola Shawi, and Hasan Kureitem discussed the coming elections and emphasized that it was the duty of the Communist Party, of the Friends of the Soviet Union and of the Lebanese-Soviet Cultural Society to support party-backed candidates and insure their election.
- 25X1X6 Comment: In delivering the vote, the mukhtars can function as ward bosses, and therefore are important politically. Mukhtars are either Christian, Moslem or Armenian, depending on the population of the quarter. Where the population is mixed, there are several mukhtars of different religious beliefs.

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